

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 046348

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 28 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

INAUGURAL FLIGHTS OF US RICE AIRLIFT WENT SMOOTHLY,

WITH 3 PLANES MAKING TOTAL 10 TAN SON NHUT - PP TRIPS

WITHOUT MISHAP (NYT SPECIAL). REBEL ROCKETS HIT

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NEAR AIRPORT AS RICE LIFT BEGINS. DOD ANNOUNCES IT

WILL INCREASE AMMO LIFT, RAISING TOTAL PP FLIGHTS TO OVER 42 DAILY (REUTER, GLOBE). AIRLIFT WILL COST 5.5 MILLION DOLS FROM PREVIOUSLY-APPROPRIATED US AID FUNDS, WILL PROVIDE ABOUT 18,000 TONS OF RICE. WHILE MOST PEOPLE IN PP HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT, RELIEF AGENCIES REPORT THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES STARVING. WITH BEGINNING OF FOOD AIRLIFT, AMMO FLOWN IN DECREASED BY HALF, BUT MIL SOURCES SAY FANK HAS ENOUGH AT PRESENT USAGE FOR ABOUT MONTH (AP, NYDN). CIVILIAN CARGO PLANES ESCALATE SUPPLY EFFORT ALMOST TO BERLIN-AIRLIFT PROPORTIONS, WITH COMMERCIAL JETS FROM SAIGON TO PROVIDE 580 TONS OF US RICE DAILY, AND C-130S FLYING FUEL AND AMMO FROM THAILAND (UPI, CHITRIB). SUN (SAIGON) DESCRIBES LOADING OF WORLD AIRWAYS AND AIRLIFT INTL JETS, EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF AIRLIFT TO BESIEGED PP. QUOTES PILOT

THAT SUPPLY FLIGHTS "JUST LIKE CHINA IN THE OLD DAYS," REFERRING TO '45-'49 FLIGHTS THAT SUPPLIED CHINAT BASES IN CIVIL WAR.

WP'S MCCOMBS (ALSO IN PHINQ) IN PP TELLS OF ARRIVAL OF AIRLIFT PLANES, AND REBEL ROCKETS THAT FIRED AT AIRPORT BUT MISSED. SAYS HIGH COST OF LIFT CONSIDERED BY OBSERVERS PROHIBITIVE OVER LONG PERIOD, EVEN IF CONGRESS VOTES EXTRA AID. AIRLIFT SAID TO BE TEN TIMES EXPENSIVE AS MEKONG CONVOYS. MIL OBSERVERS THINK FANK PROBABLY CANNOT OPEN MEKONG UNTIL LATE JUNE AFTER RAINS START. REPORTS PRESS STATEMENT BY AMB DEAN THAT MIL SITUATION "GRIM BUT NOT DESPERATE." SEES REBELS TRYING CLOSE AIRPORT WITH ROCKETS, BUT SO FAR NO MAJOR DAMAGE. MIL OBSERVERS BELIEVE IF ANY RESUPPLY AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN, AIRPORT SITUATION MIGHT BECOME UNTENABLE, BUT NO SIGN INSURGENTS HAVE DEADLY HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES. NOTICES UNNATURAL QUIET IN PP AS PEOPLE APPEAR APPREHENSIVE AND MOST CHINESE SHOPS BARRED SHUT BY MERCHANTS WHO FEAR STUDENT ANTI-CHINESE LOOTING.

NYT'S SCHANBERG AT PP AIRPORT DESCRIBES AIRLIFT; SAYS USAF MEN WHO COME IN FROM THAILAND EVERY MORNING (AND RETURN AT NIGHT) TO DIRECT LANDINGS UNCLASSIFIED

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REFUSED DISCUSS MISSION, UNDER ORDERS TO STAY SILENT. NOTES CIVILIANS PILOT DC-8S, BUT C-130 PILOTS WORKING FOR BIRD AIR HAVE "MURKIER BACKGROUND," AND EMBASSY REFUSES GIVE INFO ON THEM. QUOTES OBSERVERS THAT AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES BROUGHT IN DAILY INDICATES LONGER LIFE FOR GKR THAN 3-4 WKS, AND MANY DIPLOMATS AND MIL ANALYSTS BELIEVE MIL AID WILL NOT RUN OUT SOON AS ADMIN PREDICTS (EXCERPTED IN

USIA WIRELESS FILE).

ROCKETS EXPLODE ON GROUND OF LON NOL'S PALACE BUT CAUSE ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE (WP; UPI, CHITRIB). NUMBER OF ROCKET ATTACKS ON PP FELL OFF SHARPLY, BUT ONE BARRAGE NEAR AIRPORT KILLED SEVEN (AP, NYDN). GKR COMMAND REPORTED INTENSE INSURGENT PRESSURE ON N, S AND SE FLANKS OF CAPITAL AND 5000 REBEL TROOPS MOVING INTO POSITION ON MEKONG OPPOSITE PP. FIGHTING ALSO REPORTED 6 MILES N OF PP ON ROUTE 5 (REUTER, GLOBE). MIL SITUATION WORSENERED STEADILY WITH HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING REPORTED AROUND NEAK LUONG (UPI, CHITRIB). INSURGENT GRIP TIGHTENS ON NEAK LUONG (WP).

IN TELEGRAM FROM PEKING, SIHANOUK TELLS KEY CONGRESSMEN INSURGENTS WILL ENTER PP IN NEAR FUTURE, AND US HAS

NO REASON TO BE ASHAMED DECIDING TO BE NO LONGER CONCERNED WITH CAMBODIA. TELEGRAM MADE PUBLIC BY SEN MANSFIELD (AP, GLOBE). AFTER TALKING WITH CHOU, PRINCE SAID KHMER ROUGE FORCES WILL NEVER LAY DOWN ARMS, EVEN IF US SPENDS TENS OF BILLIONS IN ATTEMPT "TO BRING US TO OUR KNEES." NVN MFA, IN STATEMENT BROADCAST BY NCNA, ATTACKED US AIRLIFT AS C-F VIOLATION, SAID IT OPENS DOOR FOR POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST US AND "PUNISHMENT" OF THIEU (UPI CHITRIB).

FINNEY (NYT) REPORTS SECDEF TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE THAT CAMBODIA SITUATION GRIM, BUT NOT HOPELESS IF US PROVIDES EXTRA MIL AID. BELIEVES TESTIMONY UNDERSCORES PESSIMISTIC THEME SECDEF HAS BEEN SOUNDING RECENTLY (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

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GETLER (WP) DISCUSSES ADMIN STRATEGY TO SPEED CAMBODIAN AID VOTE, BY BYPASSING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES IN FAVOR OF "SAFER ROUTE" THROUGH PASSMAN'S APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE. POINTS OUT THAT AMONG SENIOR DOD AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS, GKR SURVIVAL GENERALLY VIEWED AS LONG SHOT (EXCERPTED IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

WP'S FENTON IN PP DESCRIBES STUDENTS' ANTI-CHINESE RIOTS AND THREATS OF FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS THAT HAVE CLOSED MUCH OF CITY'S BUSINESS DISTRICT. NOTES REBEL RADIO ENCOURAGES RIOTS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANTI-CHINESE CHARACTER. BELIEVES UNREST MAY TURN AGAINST GKR.

RTG SAYS ITS TROOPS AND BORDER POLICE ORDERED ON
ALERT ALONG KHMER BORDER BECAUSE OF FANK'S "CRITICAL
SITUATION" (CSM).

US FACT-FINDING CODEL MET WITH THIEU THURSDAY TO
DISCUSS ADMIN REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MIL AID (CSM;
AP, NYDN; WP); WILL FLY TO PP SATURDAY IN TWO GROUPS
TO MEET LON NOL (CSM). VC DELEGATION AT SAIGON SAID
WOULD MEET SUNDAY WITH CODEL AT REQUEST OF "AMERICANS"
(AP, NYT). SUN'S ISAACS AND NYT'S MARKHAM REPORT
MCCLOSKEY WAS TOLD OF BEATINGS BY PRISONER IN SAIGON
JAIL. ISAACS TELLS OF MCCLOSKEY MEETING WITH SAIGON
PUBLISHERS AND REV THANH (BOTH EXCERPTED IN USIA
WIRELESS FILE).

SEN STENNIS URGES PRES APPOINT TOP-LEVEL CITIZENS'
COMMISSION TO STUDY STATUS OF MIAS. REQUEST WAS MADE

BY LEAGUE OF FAMILIES (AP, NYDN).

2. CHINA

USDA REPORTS PRC HAS CANCELLED ANOTHER 382,000 TONS OF
US WHEAT ORDERED FOR DELIVERY FROM CROP YEAR BEGINNING
JULY 1 (NYDN, WSJ). OBSERVERS BELIEVE CANCELLATION
DUE TO BETTER THAN EXPECTED CHINESE CROP AND DETERIORATING
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FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION WHICH HAS FORCED CUT BACK
ON PRC IMPORTS. WITH EXCEPTION OF RESIDUAL 7,400 TONS,
NOW NO US COMMITMENT TO SHIP CHINA WHEAT. CANCELLATIONS
WILL REDUCE TO 1.44 MILLION TONS AMOUNT OF US WHEAT
SENT PRC THIS CROP YEAR (REUTER SUN); BRINGS TOTAL
CHINESE CANCELLATIONS OF US WHEAT PURCHASES SINCE LATE
JAN TO ABOUT 983,000 METRIC TONS (UPI'S BRENNER).
LOUIS DREYFUS CORP IDENTIFIED AS EXPORT HOUSE INVOLVED
IN NEW PRC CANCELLATION (MAIDENBERG, NYT).

RICHARD BANK, DIRECTOR OF DOS OFFICE OF MARITIME
AFFAIRS, TOLD SEATTLE SEMINAR THURSDAY THAT SINO-US
MARITIME AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY
NOT VERY SOON, AND US "WOULD WELCOME" ESTABLISHMENT
OF NORMAL SHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS WITH PEKING AT
"APPROPRIATE TIME." ACCORDING BANK, PRC HAS DISCUSSED
WITH AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES, LYKES BROS, WATERMAN,
SEA-LAND AND US LINES PLANS TO "TRANSPORT GOODS FROM
CHINA TO HK WHERE THEY WILL BE TRANS-SHIPED" TO US;
BUT DIRECT MOVEMENTS BETWEEN US AND PRC SEEM SOME
DISTANCE OFF, ALTHOUGH ONE CHINA-OWNED VESSEL
UNDER SOMALIA FLAG DID CALL AT LONG BEACH, CALIF,

IN LATE 1973. BANK NOTED ABSENCE OF MARITIME AND CONSULAR ARRANGEMENTS INHIBIT SUCH CONTACTS, AS DOES UNRESOLVED ISSUE OF OUTSTANDING CLAIMS BY US CITIZENS AGAINST PRC (JOC).

UPI (TAIPEI) REPORTS CHINA AIRLINES HAS CANCELLED PURCHASE ORDERS FOR TWO DC10S IN EFFORT TO REDUCE COSTS, COMPANY SPOKESMAN SAID MONDAY. ADDED CAL HAD TOTAL REVENUES ABOUT 113 MILLION DOLS LAST YEAR, AND SUFFERED DEFICIT (JOC).

3. KOREA

AP (SEOUL) CITES US OFFICIALS THAT US PLANES TOOK OFF WEDNESDAY NIGHT "DURING TENSE SITUATION" INVOLVING NK, SK FIGHTERS, AND SEA CHASE SOUTH OF DEMARCATION LINE. SK DEF MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAYS 50-TON NK BOAT, ONE OF AT LEAST EIGHT "FOUND CRUISING" SOUTH OF LINE,

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REFUSED HEAVE-TO WHEN CHALLENGED; SANK IN COLLISION WITH SK NAVAL VESSEL; "APPARENTLY WAS AN ARMED SPY SHIP." DOGFIGHT ALMOST RESULTED BETWEEN "DOZENS" OF NK MIGS, SK AND US FIGHTERS THAT CAME WITH 17 MILES EACH OTHER.

US SPOKESMAN SAID FOUR US PHANTOMS IN AREA, BUT DID NOT TAKE PART IN PURSUIT OF "NORTH KOREAN INTRUDERS"; DECLINED DISCUSS "OPERATIONAL MATTERS."

NK BROADCAST, MONITORED IN TOKYO, SAID "FISHING CRAFT" SUNK "DELIBERATELY" BY SK IN "BARBARIC, PIRATIC ACT" IN WHICH "EVEN THE AIRFORCE OF THE U. S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION FORCES OCCUPYING SOUTH KOREA JOINED THE SOUTH KOREAN PUPPET CLIQUE" (WP, ABRIDGED IN NYT). WP CITES DOD OFFICIALS THAT ONLY TWO PHANTOMS TOOK OFF FROM OSAN, REMAINED IN AIR ABOVE, 100 MILES FROM CONFRONTATION; SCRAMBLE "NOT ROUTINE" BUT SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN PAST.

4. JAPAN

EMPEROR HIROHITO ACCEPTS PRES' INVITATION TO VISIT US ABOUT TWO WEEKS EARLY OCTOBER; EMPEROR AND EMPRESS TO "ENGAGE IN OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS IN WASHINGTON" OCT 2, 3 (CHITRIB) IN FIRST STATE VISIT TO US (NYDN). INVITATION EXTENDED BY NIXON AT ANCHORAGE, RENEWED BY FORD IN TOKYO LAST NOV (NYT). CSM SAYS MBS BROKE STORY ON RADIO, THURSDAY MORNING, BEFORE PLANNED

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT. NESSEN ISSUED STATEMENT LATER
IN DAY, AFTER WORD OF VISIT LEAKED TO PRESS (UPI).

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WP'S OBERDORFER IN TOKYO CITES PRESS REPORTS EMPEROR
PLANS THANK US PEOPLE FOR POSTWAR GOODWILL AND
ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING "MOST UNFORTUNATE PERIOD"
BETWEEN TWO NATIONS. YOMIURI SAYS VISIT OPENS NEW
PAGE IN US-JAPAN RELATIONS. MIYAZAWA PLANS VISIT
WASHINGTON IN FEW MONTHS TO MAKE DETAILED PREPARATIONS.
OBSERVES IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD AGENCY, WHICH ZEALOUSLY
GUARDS EMPEROR'S DELICATE POSTWAR STATUS, EVIDENTLY
HAS DROPPED OBJECTIONS TO VISIT, WHICH SUBJECT OF
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RECURRENT CONTROVERSY, MISGIVINGS IN RECENT YEARS.

SHINTO, RC CHURCHES MADE "FIRST OFFICIAL CONTACT"
WEDNESDAY, ACCORDING VATICAN NEWSPAPER, WHEN 24
JAPANESE PRIESTS CALLED ON POPE; PAUL VI TOLD
VENERABLE TOKUGAWA HIS CHURCH SEEKS DIALOG WITH OTHERS,
LAUDED MORALITY SHINTO INSPIRES IN JAPANESE LIFE (NYT).
WSJ (TOKYO) NOTES MOTOR VEHICLE EXPORTS IN JAN
DECLINE 21 PERCENT FROM DEC, BUT UP 5 PERCENT OVER
LAST JAN; TOTAL 177,000 UNITS, VALUED AT 440 MILLION
DOLS.

JOC (FRANKFURT) SAYS TOYOTA PLANNING "SUBSTANTIAL"
PENETRATION OF GERMAN MARKET LATER IN DECADE, AIMS
TO SELL 13,000 UNITS THIS YEAR.

CHITRIB FINANCIAL EDITOR NICK POULOS NOTES MITSUI AND
CO SOLD WHOPPING FOUR BILLION DOLS IN US LAST YEAR,
ALMOST MUCH AS IH SELLS WORLDWIDE. CITES SENIOR
VP ADACHI THAT 60 PERCENT OF SALES BY US SUBSIDIARY
ARE EXPORTS (MOSTLY RAW MATERIALS NEEDED BY JAPAN),
40 PERCENT IMPORTS, WHICH FAVORABLE FOR US BALANCE
OF TRADE. ALSO REVIEWS GROWTH AS ZAIBATSU, POSTWAR
DISSOLUTION BY PRES TRUMAN, REORGANIZATION ENCOURAGED
BY US DURING COLD WAR, AND RESTORATION TO PRESENT SIZE,
SECOND ONLY TO MITSUBISHI, WHICH SHARES SIMILAR HISTORY.

5. AUSTRALIA

HOUSE SPEAKER COPE RESIGNS WHEN GOA REFUSED
SUPPORT HIS RULING LABOR MIN SHOULD SIT DOWN --
"I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHAT YOU SAY"
CAMERON TOLD SPEAKER (WP).

6. HONG KONG

WSJ SAYS DOW-JONES AGREES TO ACQUIRE 10 PERCENT INTEREST IN SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, FOR 5.2 MILLION DOLS; IN 1973 D-J BOUGHT 40 PERCENT OF PAPER'S SUBSIDIARY, FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW.

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7. PHILIPPINES

MILLIONS VOTE IN REFERENDUM THURSDAY; PARTIAL RETURNS SHOW EXPECTED ENDORSEMENT OF MARCOS' MARTIAL-LAW RULE. VOTING "ORDERLY AND PEACEFUL," BUT SCATTERED INCIDENTS BY COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS, SEVERAL SIT-IN PROTESTS REPORTED. MOSLEM REBELS DISRUPT VOTING IN AT LEAST FOUR RURAL AREAS (UPI, PHINQ).

NYT'S LELYVELD IN MANILA COMMENTS 22 MILLION VOTER TURNOUT FOR REFERENDUM LARGE ENOUGH FOR MARCOS' SUPPORTERS TO CLAIM BOYCOTT CALLED BY RC PRIESTS, SOME CONGRESSMEN "FAILED DISMALLY". NOTES VOTING MANDATORY UNDER 1973 CONSTITUTION, AND STAY-AT-HOMES RISK ONE TO SIX MONTHS IN JAIL. RESULTS SEEM FOREGONE

CONCLUSION. SAYS SAMPLE BALLOTS IN MANILA HAD CHECK MARK PRINTED IN "YES" BOX, BUT SOPHISTICATED VOTERS NOTED CODE NUMBERS NOT PRINTED ON BALLOTS, AS IN 1973, WHEN RAISED FEAR NEGATIVE VOTES COULD BE TRACED. ADDS 5 MILLION MORE FILS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE THIS YEAR THAN LAST REFERENDUM, BECAUSE MARCOS LOWERED VOTING AGE TO 15 TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE CHANCE TO VOICE CRITICISM OF HIS REGIME.

8. GENERAL

NYT'S WEINTRAUB IN KATMANDU COVERS CORONATION OF KING BIRENDRA, SAYS IMELDA MARCOS DAZZLES; OTHER GUESTS INCLUDE JAPAN'S CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS, SEN. PERCY (AP PHOTO OF GUESTS).

NYT'S MIDDLETON REVIEWS INCREASED DOD ATTENTION TO NE ASIA, WHERE FOUR GREAT POWERS CONVERGE AROUND SEA OF JAPAN; SAYS SECDEF NOTED IN ANNUAL REPORT IMPORTANCE OF US-JAPAN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP, AND STATED US MILITARY STILL HAS PACIFIC STABILIZING ROLE TO PLAY (EXCERPTED USIA WIRELESS FILE 2/28).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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9. INDOCHINA

FRANK STARR (CHITRIB) SAYS DARKNESS IS AT END OF TUNNEL. DISCUSSES HAK'S AND PRES FORD'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS, BUT NOTES APPROPRIATE LONG TERM LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE NOT YET KNOWN. WE AGREED TO PROVIDE AID AT TIME OF REMOVING OUR FORCES FROM VN. NOW TIME HAS COME TO PAY UP, AND "WE'VE CHANGED OUR MINDS."

JOHN LOFTON (PHINQ) SAYS THREE MAJOR US NETWORKS HAD NO TIME TO FILM TRAN VAN LAM'S PRESS CLUB APPEARANCE LAST WEEK. REPORTING OF EVENT MINIMAL. IF VN FALLS TO COMMUNIST, HOWEVER, PERHAPS CRONKITE WILL INTERVIEW LAM AND PERHAPS IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE BROADCAST OVER CBS.

ALBERT SEXTON IN CHITRIB (RETIRED MERCHANT SEAMAN NOW TEACHING IN SAIGON) DISCUSSES POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SAYS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FREEDOM FOR DISSENT IN SVN. VIEWS AMERICANS LIKE BAEZ AND FONDA WITH AMUSEMENT. IF SVN COULD GET ADEQUATE AID IT COULD RID ITSELF OF NVN INVADERS AND SOLVE ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS.

JOSEPH HARSCH IN CSM SAYS NEW DOMINO THEORY BEING HELD OVER CONGRESS BY PRES. SAYS THIS MEANS AMERICA'S CREDIBILITY AND PRESTIGE IS AT STAKE THROUGHOUT WORLD, NOT ONE-BY-ONE FALL OF NEIGHBORING SEASIAN COUNTRIES. AS FAR AS SVN IS CONCERNED WHAT HAPPENS TO AID REQUEST IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHAT HAPPENS IN CAMBODIA. SAYS IF SVN FALLS, HOWEVER, THERE PROBABLY WOULD BE SOME FALLOUT ELSEWHERE, BUT THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE -- I.E. CHINA.

THAT EXPERIENCE SHOWS WE COULD WEATHER SVN, CAMBODIA FALL, BUT DEMOCRATS SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE REPUBLICANS THIS WHIP. ULTIMATELY CONGRESS MAY GIVE ADMIN ADDED AID REQUESTED SO AS NOT BE BLAMED FOR SVN'S FALL.

JAMES MCCARTNEY (IN GLOBE AND PHINQ) SAYS ADMIN NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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GOING ALL-OUT FOR CAMBODIA AID REQUEST. CLAIMS LITTLE BACKSTAGE ACTION IN EFFORT TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR AID. QUOTES SEN. HUMPHREY SAYING UNFORTUNATE IF ADMIN TRYING

MISLEAD PUBLIC INTO THINKING IT WILL BE FAULT OF CONGRESS.

NYDN CALLS SEN. MANSFIELD "THE SENATE'S FLOWER CHILD" WHO FAILS TO SEE IT IS COMMUNIST BULLETS KILLING CAMBODIAN CIVILIANS.

NYT SEES CYNICAL EXERCISE OF REAL POLITIK IN DISREGARD OF HUMAN SUFFERING IN ADMIN'S STANCE TOWARD "WHAT ARE NOW GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE FINAL WEEKS" OF LON NOL'S RULE OVER CAMBODIA (IN USIA WIRELESS FILE).

GLOBE SEES CASE FOR MORE CAMBODIA MIL AID BASED ON POINT OF HONOR, "DOMINO THEORY," AND ON WHAT HAK CALLS "CREDIBILITY" OF USG. DISMISSES HONOR QUESTION, BECAUSE SINGULARLY LACKING IN SEA SINCE WE BECAME EMBROILED IN FIGHTING THERE. ADMITS MAYBE SOME TRUTH IN "DOMINO THEORY," BUT DOMINOS INVOLVED ARE CORRUPT, DICTATOR-RIDDEN GOVTS THAT DESERVE TO FALL. CREDIBILITY NOT ISSUE, SINCE US HAS NO TREATY COMMITMENT TO AID CAMBODIA. SAYS NEWS REPORTS CONTRADICT AMB DEAN'S STATEMENT THAT CAMBODIANS DO NOT LACK WILL TO FIGHT: TROOPS HAVE NO MORALE, OFFICERS LIVE IN CITIES ON MONEY FROM PAYROLLS PADDED WITH NON-EXISTENT TROOPS, AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY NOTHING WILL PREVENT EVENTUAL COLLAPSE. AGREES WITH MANSFIELD THAT MORE AID WE GIVE, MORE KILLING THERE WILL BE. CONCLUDES LONG PAST TIME FOR CONGRESS TO STOP BOTH.

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GUARDIAN REPORTER T. D. ALLMAN IN OXFORD (ENG) WRITES IN NYT THAT EVENTS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE NIXON "INCURSION" INTO CAMBODIA WAS STRATEGIC "WATERGATE," NOT MERELY BASED ON DECEIT, VIOLATION OF LAW AND ABUSE OF EXECUTIVE POWER BUT ALSO POINTLESS AND INEPT. BELIEVES CONTINUED EFFORT "TO BRAZEN IT OUT MILITARILY" IN CAMBODIA HAS FAILED, AND US HAS NO OPTION BUT TO FIND WAY AROUND FINAL HUMILIATION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF TOTAL DEFEAT FOR LON NOL. SUGGESTS ONE POSSIBILITY IS TO NEGOTIATE HONORABLE SETTLEMENT WITH SIHANOUK, RECOGNIZE HIS GOVT, AND IMMEDIATELY BEGIN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR SETTLEMENT LIKE ONE IN LAOS.

10. JAPAN

CSM'S DAVID WINDER IN REDONDO BEACH (2/27) LAMENTS ANNUAL MIGRATION OF PACIFIC GRAY WHALE TO MATING GROUNDS OFF BAJA CALIFORNIA MAY SOON BE "ANOTHER

FOOTNOTE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS" UNLESS JAPANESE, SOVIET WHALERS PERSUADED TO STOP WHALING IN NORTH PACIFIC. TO FORESTALL THIS REP BELL (CALIF) RE-INTRODUCED BILL EMPOWERING PRES TO EMBARGO ALL PRODUCTS FROM WHALING NATIONS. BELL ALSO PLANS SECOND BILL, FOR IMMEDIATE EMBARGO ON ALL FISHERIES PRODUCTS EXPORTED TO US BY OFFENDING WHALING COMPANIES.

11. PHILIPPINES

HERMIE ROTEA IN LAT (2/26) NOTES PECULIAR CHARACTERISTIC OF TYRANTS: THEY SELDOM ADMIT WHAT THEY ARE, ALWAYS RATIONALIZE THEIR ACTIONS. MOST GROTESQUE FICTION IS "DICTATORSHIP BY CONSENT" -- IN MODERN VERSION DICTATOR ASKS POPULAR APPROVAL IN REFERENDUM, AS PARK IN KOREA. THURSDAY IT MARCOS' TURN. OUTCOME "EMINENTLY PREDICTABLE," SINCE "YES" VOTE RESEMBLES CONSENT TO BE ROBBED AT GUNPOINT.

BUT SOME FILS OPPOSE, DESPITE RISK, INCLUDING OPPOSITION LEADERS (SOME FROM PRISON) WITH SUIT AGAINST REFERENDUM, DISMISSED BY SUPREME COURT. ALSO MOVEMENT FOR FREE PHILIPPINES, IN US, HEADED BY FORMER SEN RAUL MANGLAPUS, CALLS FOR BOYCOTT BY VOTERS.

ROTEA SEES GREAT RISK FOR US IF MARCOS PERPETUATES RULE, BECAUSE CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH HIS DESPOTIC GOVT "CANNOT BUT ASSOCIATE" US WITH HIM IN EYES OF FREEDOM-LOVING FILS; WARNS US SUPPORT FOR ABRITRARY RULERS SELDOM IN ANY NATION'S LONG-TERM INTEREST, AS DEMONSTRATED IN GREECE. KISSINGER
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NOTE BY OC/T - POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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